"New small scale units often experience problems and delays in securing working capital finance. In order to overcome this difficulty, it has been decided that requirements of working capital upto Rs 2.5 lakhs for new tiny and small scale units, whose project cost does not exceed Rs. 5 lakhs, will be provided through a single window. Thus, both term loans and working capital will be made available by the same bank or institution. The details of this scheme will be announced by Industrial Development Bank of India shortly".

Power Generation from Hydel Sources

1909. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give increased priority to the generation of power from hydel sources during the Eighth Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details of the funds likely to be made available for the purpose; and

(c) whether private investment on these power projects is proposed to be allowed,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Government will accord due priority to the generation of power from hydel sources when the Eighth Plan is formulated.

(b) Funds required for implementing power projects in the Eighth Plan have not been finalised

(c) The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately-owned power units and the possibility of the establishment of new units in the private sector when the national interest so requires.

Setting up of National Alcohol Authority

1910. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the setting up of a National Alcohol Authority with power to control and regulate the distribution and allocation of molasses and alcohol; and

(b) if so, by when the Authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Review authority for drug prices

1911. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the setting up of a Review Authority to go into the prices of drugs in view of the large number of representations from drug producers disputing the price fixation formulae of the Government; and

(b) if so, by when the Review Authority is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No such Authority has been set up.

(b) Does not arise.

Working of Public Sector Undertakings

1912. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies were made recently about the working of public sector undertakings, their working costs, their production, and their profits earned or losses etc.;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to improve their working and make them result-oriented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) An analytical report reviewing the working of public sector undertakings during 1986-87, their working costs, profit earned, losses incurred etc. has been laid on the Table of the House on 25.2.1988.

(c) The details of the steps taken by the Government to improve the working of the public sector undertakings are given at page 179 of Volume-I of the above stated report.

Oil and gas struck in the Andhra Pradesh coast AREA

1913. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil and natural gas have been struck in the Andhra Coast area;

(b) if so, what is the estimated yield of oil and gas from this area; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas from these wells on a full scale?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These discoveries are still in exploration delineation stage. However, a total of 13 million tonnes of oil and 4925 million cubic metres of gas reserves have been established as on 1-1-87 in KG offshore basin.

(c) Two wells are currently under drilling in KG offshore and two more wells are planned for drilling during 1988-89.

One offshore structure is proposed to be put on Early Production System to commence oil production by end of 1988.

Strike by workers of public sector undertakings in West Bengal

1914. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 80,000 workers in engineering and jute industries in West Bengal based Central Public Sector undertakings were on a long-drawn strike during December-January last;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that huge losses were incurred by the industries concerned due to the Strike;

(c) if so, what were the causes of the strike; and

(d) in what manner it was resolved?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Dental of Interim relief allowed to the non executive public sector employees on industrial D.A. governed by wage agreements was the cause.